

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing method for forming an image by using
a print head, wherein the print head has a plurality
5 of arrayed small heads, the small heads each have a
plurality of print elements arranged in columns, the
print elements are equal in number to an integer times
the number of time-division drive blocks, and the
small heads are arranged so that at least two print
10 elements in adjoining small heads are aligned in a
scan direction;

the printing method comprising the steps of:

moving the print head and a print medium relative
to each other in the scan direction that crosses a
15 direction of the columns of the print elements; and

dividing the print elements into the plurality of
drive blocks and activating the drive blocks of print
elements on a time-division basis to form an image on
the print medium;

20 wherein drive timings with which to activate the
set of print elements aligned in the scan direction
are the same time-division drive timing.

2. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein
25 the number of sets of print elements aligned in the
scan direction is equal to an integer times the number
of drive blocks.

3. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of print elements in the print head are arranged in an entire widthwise printable range of the print medium.

4. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of print elements in the print head are ink jet print elements that can be activated to eject ink from nozzles.

5. A printing method according to claim 4, wherein the ink jet print elements have electrothermal transducers that generate energy for ejecting ink.

6. A printing apparatus for forming an image by using a print head, the printing apparatus; wherein the print head has a plurality of arrayed small heads, the small heads each have a plurality of print elements arranged in columns, the print elements are equal in number to an integer times the number of time-division drive blocks;

the print head and a print medium are moved relative to each other in a scan direction that crosses a direction of the columns of the print elements;

the print elements are divided into the plurality

of drive blocks and activated in the drive blocks on a time-division basis to form an image on the print medium;

at least two print elements in adjoining small
5 heads are aligned in the scan direction; and

the number of sets or pairs of print elements in the adjoining small heads aligned in the scan direction is equal to an integer times the number of time-division drive blocks.

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7. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the print elements aligned in the scan direction are allocated to the same drive block for activation.

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8. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of print elements in the print head are arranged in an entire widthwise printable range of the print medium.

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9. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of print elements in the print head are ink jet print elements that can be activated to eject ink from nozzles.

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10. A printing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ink jet print elements have electrothermal

transducers that generate energy for ejecting ink.

11. A print head for forming an image, comprising:
a plurality of arrayed small heads, the small heads
5 each having a plurality of print elements arranged in
columns, the print elements being equal in number to
an integer times the number of time-division drive
blocks;

wherein the print head and a print medium are moved
10 relative to each other in a scan direction that
crosses a direction of the columns of the print
elements;

wherein the print elements are divided into the
plurality of drive blocks and activated in the drive
15 blocks on a time-division basis to form an image on
the print medium;

wherein at least two print elements in adjoining
small heads are aligned in the scan direction;

wherein the number of sets of print elements in the
20 adjoining small heads aligned in the scan direction is
equal to an integer times the number of drive blocks.

12. A print head according to claim 11, wherein
the print elements aligned in the scan direction are
25 allocated to the same drive block for activation.

13. A print head according to claim 11, wherein

the plurality of print elements are arranged in an entire widthwise printable range of the print medium.

14. A print head according to claim 11, wherein
5 the plurality of print elements are ink jet print elements that can be activated to eject ink from nozzles.

15. A print head according to claim 14, wherein
10 the ink jet print elements have electrothermal transducers that generate energy for ejecting ink.

16. A program for forming an image by using a print head, wherein the print head has a plurality of
15 arrayed small heads, the small heads each have a plurality of print elements arranged in columns, the print elements are equal in number to an integer times the number of time-division drive blocks, and the small heads are arranged so that at least two print
20 elements in adjoining small heads are aligned in a scan direction, the program causing a computer to execute the steps comprising:

moving the print head and a print medium relative to each other in the scan direction that crosses a
25 direction of the columns of the print elements;

dividing the print elements into the plurality of drive blocks and activating the drive blocks of print

elements on a time-division basis to form an image on the print medium; and

activating the set of print elements aligned in the scan direction at the same time-division drive timing.

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17. A storage media readable by a computer and storing the program of claim 16.